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La Scrittura Latina nell'Età Romana . . . con Appendice bibliografica (32 Illustrazioni). LUIGI SCHIAPARELLI. Como 1921, Ostinelli di Cesare Nani e Co. Price in Italy 20 lire; for abroad, 20 gold francs. Pp. 207.

This is Vol. I of the new *Auxilia ad Res Italicas Medii Aevi exquirendas in usum scholarum instructa et collecta*: SCHIAPARELLI, the learned and prolific Professor of Palaeography and Diplomatics at the Florence Institute of Higher Studies, is also to edit Vol. II (*Raccolta di Documenti Latini*, fasc. I, dal II sec. a. C. al VII sec. d. C.). The series is dedicated to the fostering of historical studies in the New Italy; but Vol. I appeals to all students of the history of writing. It is a full account, with exhaustive bibliography, lists of MSS, fragments, etc. of all our sources for the study of early book-hands. SCHIAPARELLI concludes that from the archaic monumental capital are derived the elegant and the rustic monumental capital, and the cursive monumental capital and majuscule hands. The former passed over into books, the latter into documents. So in MSS we find the elegant and the rustic capital, in charters the cursive capital and majuscule (Pompeian and Dacian wax tablets). This last develops into the cursive minuscule. Mixed forms now arise—semi-cursive capital (papyrus de bello Actiaco), majuscule (Ulpian (?) fragment in Fayûm Towns, Plate V, No. X) and minuscule (glosses of Bembine Terence); archaic or rustic semi-uncial (*Oxyrhynchus Livy epitome*); and from this last, the uncial and semi-uncial book-hands. He combats the theory of Giry and Grand, and Traube, that the semi-uncial is a Christian development. The illustrations are taken from Wessely, etc.; there are numerous tables of forms of letters. The bibliography is admirable, and mentions several recent items new to most of us. The book is a thoughtful and valuable contribution to the critique of Latin palaeography.

CHARLES UPSON CLARK.

NORTH HATLEY, QUEBEC.

Cicero: A Biography. By TORSTEN PETERSSON. University of California Press, 1920. 699 pp.

New biographies of Cicero are coming out in rapid succession but what we really need still fails to appear. The general reader deserves to have a book cast in the mold—somewhat enlarged—of Strachan-Davidson's biography but with more generous attention to Cicero's literary work. The advanced scholar

needs as a convenient reference book a work of far larger compass than Sihler's containing the results of all important investigations that are pertinent and a full array of sources and authorities. Dr. PETERSSON's volume, good as it is in many respects, satisfies neither need. It does not reveal the maturity of judgment in political matters, the direct contact with all the diverse literary activities of this far-reaching author, nor the capacious style that either work would demand. As a work of reference it lacks, despite its meticulous care in many details, the final penetrating investigation, and the guideposts directing to sources.

This is of course only saying that the author has failed to do the well-nigh impossible thing. In fact the book is nearer a success than any biography of Cicero that has appeared in a decade. The author has understood the serious nature of his task. He has tried to do justice to every side of his subject, and he has also recognized the importance of setting the biography in its proper social and political framework. His reading is wide and thorough, even if it has not led to any appreciably original judgments. His proportions are in general right, though at times he has let the verbose letters lead him astray into the repetition of insignificant details. He has been steadily fair in estimating the personality of a man who marred very great qualities by obtruding irritating foibles. In a word this biography is safe and reliable, and can be recommended for what it offers. It may not be wholly out of place to express the hope that the author will recur to this exacting task after enlarging the scope of his researches in Roman history and literature. He may yet provide the book which no one else has succeeded in writing.

TENNEY FRANK.

Traces of Matriarchy in Germanic Hero-Lore. By ALBERT WILLIAM ARON. University of Wisconsin Studies in Language and Literature, Number 9. Madison, 1920.

ARON finds in the Germanic Heldensage the same traditional sentimental tie between mother's brother and sister's son that Farnsworth found in the Old French Chansons de Geste, and he handles the material in much the same way. A similar relationship between nephew and maternal uncle is revealed by the familiar passage in Tacitus's *Germania* (XX). The third step in ARON's argument is, perhaps, better expressed by Farnsworth (p. 227): "The sociologists have shown that this preference for the sister's son, which is one of the main characteristics of the matriarchal state of society, is found only where Mother-